

QUIET EVENING AT HOME.

Man Relates Some Surprises His Family Prepared for Him.

"You don't know what trouble is when you're just married," snapped the head of an East End family, as he sat in his office looking over a bunch of newly arrived bills. "No sir," he declared with the air of a man who knows just a thing or two of what he's talking about, "a married man isn't really in trouble until he has a big family party grown."

"Here's a bunch of little forget-me-nots about the folks at home the mail carrier just handed to me. And when I get home I'll probably run into something else to make me sweat."

"Night before last when I got home I found my two oldest girls were putting over some sort of a social affair, and it didn't look like any cheap skate sort of an affair, either. Before I got to our bedroom two of the younger girls called me in to see the presents they had bought that afternoon to take to some birthday party they were invited to the next afternoon. A minute later my wife called me in to see a new dress that our oldest daughter had bought that day. It wasn't much of a garment, either. Just a little measly \$44 outfit at that. While we were looking at that my youngest girl—she's just turned eight years—came bursting in and wanted some money to run up to the corner after some ice cream. She wasn't in on the party down below and wanted some entertainment."

"Well, my wife remarked about that time, 'you'd better hurry and get into your dress suit. You know we are going out this evening.'"

"No, I says, 'I guess I'd better sneak back to the office and get to work again.'"

"Now, jolly evening of it, wasn't it?"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

TWO STRANGE TREES.

The Mojave Yucca a Vegetable Freak—The Creeping Oak of Monterey.

California has one tree which is the personification of mystery. Found nowhere else in the world, it had a mysterious origin and thrives in a region of mystery.

The Mojave yucca is a vegetable freak which has developed into a species. It has the characteristics of several plants, to which no relationship can be traced.

It is an endogen, yet its bark shows concentric rings such as characterize the exogenous stems. It lives and thrives in great numbers in a region early devoid of vegetation, in a land of heat and thirst and barrenness.

Another tree in California which has a peculiar personality is the creeping oak of Monterey.

Nowhere in the vegetable kingdom can be found so true a representative of monopoly. The tree is of gnarled growth, its limbs, like those of the sycamore, bending and twisting in all directions.

Wherever a branch touches the earth it takes root and becomes, as it were, another trunk, though still a branch of the main stem, drawing nourishment both from the parent stem and from the new source. In this manner the tree is spread till it has taken possession of five acres of ground, and it is still advancing.—P. E. Magazine.

She Meant a Mantle.

Thomas A. Edison was discussing at Atlantic City the various devices for increasing the brilliancy and diminishing the cost of a gas jet.

"Many of these devices have for base a mantle," he said. "You know what a mantle looks like? Then you'll appreciate a remark I overheard in a hardware dealer's."

"A young woman entered the shop and said:

"Have you got these things for improving a gas light?"

"Yes, madam," said the dealer. "Here is a complete set, fittings, chimney and mantle, all for—"

"Oh, I don't want the set," said the young woman. "I've got the metal part and the chimney, but the little white shirt is busted. It's only one of them I want."

Smoking Soldiers.

The experience of Lord Wolseley of the British army has been such that he has always made it a rule to allow, whenever possible, the soldiers under his command one pound of tobacco a month, which he considers a fair allowance, and with the use of which he finds the soldier does his best work. In Italy the military authorities recognize tobacco as one of the comforts essential to troops and cigars are served out to them with their daily rations.—Washington Herald.

Tool of Many Uses.

During the present army maneuvers the French troops are using for the first time an instrument which for variety of adaptation probably approaches to a record. It is a kind of concave lance shaft, or gouge, about 5 inches broad at the base and with a handle about 12 inches long. This implement is a shovel, a pointed bar, a trenching pick, a wire cutter, a wood chopper and can be used for bread and meat.—London Globe.

She Snatched of Books.

"They tell me you kissed Miss Sonnet, the poetess, on yesterday's automobile excursion?"

"Yes, that is true."

"Indeed! And how did you—ah—"

"She snatched of books."

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The analysis of this Water, shown on the bottle, tells you what Nature thinks you should take when sick, and the doctor who reads it will agree.

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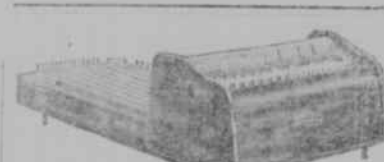
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WISCONSIN PEARL HUNTING.

Digging Clams for the Valuable Gem Twenty Years Ago.

Twenty years ago a pearl craze started in Wisconsin. Every one dug clams, says *Outing Magazine*. Mills stopped and the writer was drawn from the mill ponds that the people might get the mussels more easily. Previous to 1895, according to the government report, \$300,000 worth of pearls were found in Wisconsin. Sugar river alone yielding \$10,000 before becoming exhausted. At that time river pearls were not valued as highly as "orientals," but now they are eagerly sought by jewelers. Several years ago button factories were established at various points on the Mississippi river. Men collected clams and sold the shells to these factories to be made into pearl buttons. Some pearls were found and another craze soon started. Men flocked to the river from all walks of life. White men, red men, black men, brown men and women, all came, though after a month of sun, wind and river water coffee, racial characteristics were not conspicuous.

In the summer of 1902 it was said that 20,000 men were clamming on the Mississippi and its tributaries. In the spring of the next year the rush was even greater, but this did not last long. Owing to the overfishing of the previous season, the market was already overstocked and the price of shells had dropped so low that by July comparatively few boats were at work. Many enormous beds that were thought to be inexhaustible had given out, the buyers rejected as many (only about a quarter of the catch) were salable, even at the low price of the season; the river was almost deserted.

HOW TO WIN BATTLES.

Men Who Hit Are Determining Factor in War.

Other things being equal, good shooting is the determining factor in war. Poorly drilled and hastily organized bodies of men can give a good account of themselves if they know how to shoot and hit what they shoot at.

In our war for Independence, says *Army and Navy Life*, the colonists were woodmen. They carried and used their arms to supply their homes with food, and to protect them from the savage. As marksmen they vastly outclassed the British, and that more than anything else gave Washington the final victory.

Again, in our great civil war, mark the effect of a general knowledge of firearms. In the south were sporting people; they were fond of riding and hunting, shooting at target and at game entered into their sports and pastimes. The north was commercial.

Its men knew nothing of firearms, save the flintlocks of their grandfathers, objects of curiosity in their shops or homes, except in the far west, where the life of 1776 was still being lived. The result was that in the east the southern troops were generally victorious for a couple of years until the northern troops learned to shoot. What little success the north had was in the west, where they were little better than a standoff.

A Paying Crop.

F. W. Burbridge, M. A. of Dublin, in his opening address at the narcissus conference, held in 1896, said: "An acre of wheat or potatoes may be put down as worth from \$20 to \$50, according to locality, variety, etc., but an acre of choice daffodils or narcissuses may be worth anything from \$50 to \$500, or even more." The advisability of blending bulb-growing with the culture of flowering roots of all kinds is increasingly apparent, and thus the chance of success is widened. In addition, flower production may be regarded as a very natural aid to the enlargement of the scope of the bulb grower. There is an astonishing demand in large cities for the very commonest kinds of blossoms, and many a grower is adding substantially to his annual turnover and profits by the production of these ordinary flowers.—Dundee Advertiser.

Not a Welch One.

Rev. Mr. Freuder of Philadelphia, was invited to dine at the house of a friend whose wife went into her kitchen to give some final orders. Inidentally, she added to the servant: "We are to have a Jewish rabbit for dinner to-day." For a moment the maid surveyed her mistress in grim silence. Then she spoke with decision: "All I have to say is, 'Who is there?'" she replied. "Missus, will you be so kind as to come down and pick out your baby?"—Lippincott's.

Taking Her Pick.

The following was told at a smoker recently, and it is not so bad, either. The narrator told of another little feed he once attended, where eight men were sent home in one hack; and the driver simply rang the door bell and when a feminine voice called from the upper window: "Who is there?" the Jehu replied: "Missus, will you be so kind as to come down and pick out your baby?"—Lippincott's.

Abstemiousness Pays.

The future is to the people who are strictly sober. The Japanese, officers and soldiers, fed on rice, and during the great war from which they issued victorious had only water to appease their thirst.—Henri Rochefort in *L'Intransigeant*.

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N. & W. Norfolk & Western Schedule in Effect

LEAVE FARMVILLE DAILY			
NORTH AND EAST.			
No.	Time	Stations	Time
No. 10.	5:06 A. M.	NE. R.	5:10 A. M.
No. 11.	5:06 A. M.	NE. R.	5:10 A. M.
No. 12.	5:06 A. M.	NE. R.	5:10 A. M.
No. 13.	5:06 A. M.	NE. R.	5:10 A. M.
No. 14.	5:06 A. M.	NE. R.	5:10 A. M.
No. 15.	5:06 A. M.	NE. R.	5:10 A. M.
No. 16.	5:06 A. M.	NE. R.	5:10 A. M.
No. 17.	5:06 A. M.	NE. R.	5:10 A. M.
No. 18.	5:06 A. M.	NE. R.	5:10 A. M.
No. 19.	5:06 A. M.	NE. R.	5:10 A. M.
No. 20.	5:06 A. M.	NE. R.	5:10 A. M.
No. 21.	5:06 A. M.	NE. R.	5:10 A. M.
No. 22.	5:06 A. M.	NE. R.	5:10 A. M.
No. 23.	5:06 A. M.	NE. R.	5:10 A. M.
No. 24.	5:06 A. M.	NE. R.	5:10 A. M.
No. 25.	5:06 A. M.	NE. R.	5:10 A. M.
No. 26.	5:06 A. M.	NE. R.	5:10 A. M.
No. 27.	5:06 A. M.	NE. R.	5:10 A. M.
No. 28.	5:06 A. M.	NE. R.	5:10 A. M.
No. 29.	5:06 A. M.	NE. R.	5:10 A. M.
No. 30.	5:06 A. M.	NE. R.	5:10 A. M.

TIME TABLE IN EFFECT MARCH 1, 1903.

Between Farmville and Richmond via Norfolk and Southern Railway.			
No.	Time	Stations	Time
No. 1.	5:00 A. M.	Farmville	5:10 A. M.
No. 2.	5:00 A. M.	Farmville	5:10 A. M.
No. 3.	5:00 A. M.	Farmville	5:10 A. M.
No.			